

### REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants thank Examiner Wu for the helpful and courteous discussion of April 21, 2005. During the discussion, Applicants' U.S. representative pointed out that the specification as originally filed discloses compositions which in one embodiment of the invention contain at least two different curable compounds that may have mesogen groups and further that the curable composition contains a curable compound having a mesogen group and a curable compound not having a mesogen group.

Applicants submit the amendment to the claims obviates the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112.

The Office objected to Claim 39 because the language "curable sites connectable to each other" is vague. Claim 39 has been amended. Support for the amendment is found on page 17, line 16. The Office objected to Claim 40 on the basis that it is not clear which curable compound must have a molecular weight of at least 1,000. Applicants submit that Claim 40 permits either of the curable compounds to have a molecular weight of at least 1,000.

Present independent Claim 33 recites a process for producing a liquid crystal optical element that includes curing a curable composition that comprises a curable compound having a mesogen structural portion and a curable compound having no mesogen structural portion. The Office asserts that Hikmet (U.S. 5,762,823) discloses the presently claimed invention and therefore anticipates independent Claim 33. Applicants submit that Hikmet may disclose compositions that contain two different curable compounds each having a mesogen group but does not disclose a curable composition that has one compound containing a mesogen structural portion and another curable compound having no mesogen structural portion.

The Office cites to Figure 4 of Hikmet and the prior art's disclosure of a polymerizable mixture comprising 0.8 wt.% C6M; 19.3 wt.% CB6; 39.4 wt.% CB15; 39.5 wt.% BL006; and 1 wt.% of Irgacure 651, as support for the rejection. In Figure 2 of the patent, the structures of C6M and CB6 are provided. Each of C6M and CB6 contain mesogen structural units. Each of CB15 and BL006 are non-reactive chiral and achiral materials, respectively. Because CB15 and BL006 are non-reactive they are not curable compounds. Applicants note that the prior art composition may contain two curable compounds each having mesogen groups but is not described as containing a curable compound having a mesogen structural group and a curable compound having no mesogen structural portion.

The compositions of Hikmet may be described as containing two curable compounds having mesogen structural groups. Hikmet does not disclose compositions that have a mixture of a curable compound having a mesogen structural portion and a curable compound having no mesogen structural portion. Therefore, Hikmet does not anticipate present Claim 33.

Applicants submit that it is readily recognized by those of ordinary skill in the art that a catalyst such as Irgacure 651 is not a curable compound because it is not polymerizable; instead, it initiates polymerization.

Applicants submit the amendment to the claims places all now-pending claims in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections.

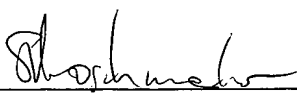
Respectfully submitted,

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